

## Sisters' Department.

### THREE SISTERS.

BY SADIE GRIBBONS.

When three lovely sisters dwell in one home, how pleasant it is to watch them, and see each one filling her place of duty; always assisting each other in every possible way, and striving to make life bright and pleasant; each one more happy and contented, more sympathetic, gentle, kind and loving. No harsh words are heard, no grumbling, no fault-finding, no prejudice or selfishness; but instead, words of kindness, to soothe and comfort, to lift up. Deeds of love and righteousness, making glad the heart with joy and peace.

Surely when a home is blessed with three such loving sisters, the friends, neighbors and community cannot fail to see their shining light, to be benefited and guided by its brilliancy.

But where will we find the home of these three sisters? In the heart. Their names are Faith, Hope, and Love. Do they dwell in every person's heart? When the heart becomes the temple of Christ, then these three lovely sisters make it their dwelling place. Their parent is God, and their offspring righteous works. How they do shine forth in the midst of a vain and wicked world; like a bright lamp set upon a hill in a dark and gloomy night. The light of righteousness cannot be hid. No one can fail to see the light of faith, hope and love of Christ; and whoever will may shew forth the brightness of these essential graces. Matt. v, 14, "Ye are the light of the world." Matt. v, 16, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." Phil. ii, 15. "That ye may be blameless and harmless, (sincere) the sons of God, without rebuke in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world."

True faith can never be separated from hope and love. And in that heart where dwelleth true faith in Christ, there also dwelleth hope and love, with God, the Father. Christ's temple is then filled to overflowing with righteousness, and leaves no room for the wiles of Satan. Faith is the

hand which we stretch forth to receive the benefits of Christ's blood; it is the soul of spiritual life, the grand distinguishing characteristic of the true Christian from the false; it is the touchstone of Christianity; the burning coal which sets fire to the sacrifice on the altar; the sun which enlightens the wilderness of the world, the lantern which guides our feet through the valley of the shadow of death. True faith in Christ is the main-spring of Christian life—the means of salvation. Without faith there can be no forgiveness of sins, no holiness of life; and they who are justified by faith live and walk by it. Read carefully and thoughtfully God's precious promise, the condition by which we can receive that promise; and the terrible doom which he pronounces against the children of disobedience. Mark xvi, 16; John iii, 15-18. Do not live in a cottage of doubt, but dwell in the mansion of faith.

Love is the divine essence of our being; it flows from God into our souls, and is our life. When love controls the heart of man it will be manifested in his actions and works of life. His heart and soul supremely delights in and obeys God.

He cordially and practically loves all beings according to their character—the good with fellowship of soul, the evil with a Christ-like benevolence. Such love would meet and fulfill all the ends of the law. Matt. xxii, 37-40; Rom. xiii, 8-10, without it none can enter the kingdom of heaven. Holy "love is the fulfilling of the law," and is a mighty power with men, and tends to promote in them a Christian-like spirit. It shines forth like alone bright star; by its light hard hearts become softened. The wandering, and the fallen are brought back to God, and gladly obey the Savior's teaching through love's magnetism. Love never forgets the "Golden Rule," and is always ready to practice it. It thinks of the comfort and welfare of others, ever ready to lend a helping hand with cheerful words, and tender sympathy; making glad the hearts of the strong, the weak, sick, and sorrowful; and all those who feel the touch of its influence.

Faith and Love are constantly accompanied with one of the dearest

privileges man can possess—Hope. Hope is a secret instinct to draw our minds to future happiness. "That being justified by faith, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life." Titus iii, 7. Peace and joy comes to the heart that is filled with hope; take it away and you leave a blank which would be impossible to fill. Hope carries its consoling rays into every home, wherever man may be. It sustains in every period of life, it smiles serenely on the bed of sickness, and sheds its grateful radiance around the pillow of the dying. It blooms in every season of existence, and like the evergreen it preserves its verdure throughout the year. Our heavenly Father has given us a hope of the blessed immortality, where the troubles and cares of an unsatisfying world will forever cease, and the soft and balmy breath of an eternal spring soothe the spirit's calm repose into the haven of eternal rest.

How truly Paul said that "Hope is an anchor to the soul." How bright and beautiful is that hope that meets the shadowy future without fear, which comes to us mid storms and darkness, to tell us we have a true friend in our dear Redeemer; one that will never forsake us in the hour of misfortune, sickness and death. We feel the necessity then, in the blessed hope of forgiveness in the promise of that beloved Savior, who has said, "He that believeth on me though he were dead, yet shall he live." "But blessed be God that the righteous hath hope in his death through his dear Son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Without hope how dreary the world would be; appearing to the care-worn pilgrim one wide desert all the paths of which are beset with misery, trouble and embittered with sorrow. But hope lights us on our way. When darkness lowers and gloom oppresses, hope strengthens our steps, raises the sinking heart and restores the courage which begins to droop. We can smile at care and trouble, arm ourselves against the fleeting pleasures of this life, and pity the deluded disciples of folly and dissipation and rest on the certainty of immortality, the hope of eternal life and happiness. How pleasant it is to bask in the sunshine of